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For Immediate Release

Press Release

City of Takoma Park Honors Senator Ida G. Ruben, D-Md.

Contact:

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TAKOMA PARK, Md., June 7, 2004 - The City of Takoma Park will honor Sen. Ida G. Ruben for her long time service to the Takoma Park community and for recently obtaining \$300,000 in state funds for the new Takoma Park Community Learning Center. A small reception in her honor will be held on **Monday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Takoma Park Municipal Building, located at 7500 Maple Avenue. At 7:45 p.m., the City Council will adopt a resolution of appreciation.

"Ida is living proof that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. She's come through for Takoma Park over and over despite the difficulty of the circumstances. We especially owe her a huge debt of gratitude for her work in securing the recent \$300,000 grant for our Community Center," said Howard Kohn, chairman of the Citizens Liaison Committee for the Community Center.

Not only does the City thank her for securing these funds, but also appreciates her previous support for this community. For 29 years, Ruben has represented District 20, which encompasses the City of Takoma Park and the surrounding community in Silver Spring, first as a state delegate and since 1987, as a state senator. She has helped the City receive state funding for street projects and revitalization activities, and has helped the City gain a role in site plan review and other planning functions in Montgomery County. Likewise, the senator and her District 20 partners - Delegates Peter Franchot, Sheila Hixson, and Gareth Murray - had worked to obtain \$1.5 million in state funding for the Takoma Park Community Center between 1999 and 2001.

While funding for the Community Center has been provided by the City of Takoma Park, the state of Maryland, Montgomery County, and the federal government, there was an unexpected cost that required the City to build a large flood protection system costing over \$700,000.

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This pushed the total construction cost to over \$8 million. With this unexpected cost and a dismal fiscal year, obtaining more funds to complete the Center seemed bleak, but Ruben proved the impossible could be done.

“In spite of the fiscal difficulties in this legislative session, Senator Ruben came through for us again. Her efforts to get these much-needed funds are just another example of her tireless efforts on behalf of our community,” said Mayor Kathy Porter.

The Community Center is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2005. Additions to the existing Takoma Park Municipal Building will allow for community spaces such as: computer lab, dance and art rooms, teen center, senior room, and rooms for classes and meetings.

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